way are capacity constraints, deficient road geometrics/road junctions, and lack of traffic discipline.

(b) to (e) The proposal is to widen the entire stretch of road in question forming parts of National Highway Nos. 8A and 8B into four-laned carriageway in a phased manner inter-alia keeping in view the availability of funds etc. About 21.80 km length already stands widened into four-lane while the four-laning work is in progress in a length of 31.70 km which is targetted for completion by June, 1999. Further, another 10.00 km of road length has been included for widening into four-lanes in the annual Plan (1998-99) at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.00 crores.

Flights from Jabalpur to other parts of Madhya Pradesh

*296. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jabalpur airport has been receiving a face lift for the last couple of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start flights from Jabalpur to other parts of Madhya Pradesh as also to link Jabalpur to Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Jabalpur Airport has been upgraded for operation of Boeing 737 aircraft. The runway was strengthend/extended from 4500 ft. to 6500 ft. alongwith associated pavement in November, 1998 at a cost of Rs. 11.76 crores.

(c) and (d) The Government have laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

All Inda Radio Stations without Directors

*297. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that several Stations of All India Radio are functioning in the country without Directors;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to fill up the posts; and

(c) if not, how much more time Government will take to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To overcome the shortage in this grade, the Ministry has resorted to ad-hoc promotions and 132 Junior Time Scale Officers (Assistant Station Directors) of Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service in AIR have recently been promoted to Senior Time Scale (Station Directors) on ad-hoc basis.

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर जसदेव सिंह को आंखों देखा हाल सुनाने से रोकना

*298. प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले 37 वर्षों से गणतंत्र दिवस और अन्य अवसरों पर आंखों देखा हाल सुनाने वाले श्री जसदेव सिंह को इस बार गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर आखों देखा हाल सुनाने से रोकने के क्या कारण हैं और उक्त आदेश किसने जारी किया;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में एक जांच कराकर दोषी अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई करेगी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन): (क) प्रसार भारती ने सूचित किया है कि श्री जसदेव सिंह को प्रसार भारती के माध्यम से रक्षा मंत्रालय ने इस गणतंत्र दिवस परेड (26 जनवरी, 1999) और राजपथ पर सांस्कृतिक समारोह की सार्वजनिक प्रसारण प्रणाली के द्वारा हिन्दी में कमेंटरी देने के लिए बुक किया था। श्री सिंह ने इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार कर लिया था। इसलिए उन्हें प्रसार भारती द्वारा बुक नहीं किया जा सका।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Insurance Cover to Pilgrims

*299. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to introduce a Scheme for granting insurance cover to those undertaking pilgrimage to hazardous places or through hazardous routes; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE BANKING REVEUNE AND FINANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to introduce a specific insurance cover for those undertaking pilgrimage to hazardous places or through hazardous routes only. The four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India are already issuing personal Accident policies covering accidents and illnesses during travel. package Personal Accident Policies under the brand names "Suhana Safar" and "Marg Bandhu" are also issued by the general insurance Companies for travellers. These policies can be taken by domestic travellers as well as those undertaking pilgrimage to hazardous places.

Recruitment of Stores and Supply Assistant

*300. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of candidates empanelled vide Indian Airlines reference No. IGIA/PS/bharti/4563-C-6 dated the 20th July, 1995 (examination held on 5th December, 1993, interviews conducted in April, 1994) for the post of "Stores and Supply Assistant" in Indian Airlines indicating General/ST/ST/OBC category;

(b) the date of issuance of appointment offer;

(c) the criteria adopted for the offer of appointment;

(d) whether the empanelled candidates were given appointment offer according to the merit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating category-wise (SC/ST/OBC) names of the candidates; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Interviews for the post of Stores and Supplies Assistant In Indian Airlines, Northern Region were held during April and June, 1994. The names of the empanelled candidates are given in the Statement -I (*see* below)

(b) Appointment letter to one scheduled caste candidate was issued on 7.7.1995 and to 10 other candidates (General category-8, SC-2) were issued on 7.4.1997.

(c) and (d) The offer of appointment was issued in the order of merit in which the candidates were empanelled subject to the number of posts required to be filled and the reservation applicable for SC & ST candidates.

(e) The details of the candidates to whom the offer of appointment was made category wise are given in the Statement-II below.